



## **Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group**

**Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordination Group News Release**  
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### **States, Counties and Local Communities Receive National Fire Plan Grants to Decrease the Threat of Wildfire**

LEAVENWORTH – Federal, state, and local agency officials celebrated another year of National Fire Plan grants in Leavenworth today at the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival. State, counties, tribes and communities from all over Washington lined up to receive a portion of over \$9.5 million being granted throughout the Pacific Northwest. The funds are used to help reduce the risks associated with unwanted wildfire.

Under the National Fire Plan are five different grant programs to assist with fire management programs on state and private lands. Funds are used for projects that reduce hazardous fuels, develop community wildfire protection plans, conduct prevention education campaigns, and increase fire protection capabilities. Federal managers will officially present 2005 grant recipients of three of the programs (Rural Fire Assistance, Volunteer Fire Assistance, and the Interagency Wildland-Urban Interface Community Assistance Grants Programs) with grant funding.

Since 2001, Department of the Interior agencies and the USDA Forest Service have awarded over \$60 million to communities in Oregon and Washington through the Interagency National Fire Plan Community Assistance Grants Program. The program is funded by all five federal wildland fire agencies and involves the States of Oregon and Washington and the Western Governors. Combined these agencies make up the Pacific Northwest Wildfire Coordinating Group (PNWCG), an interagency group providing leadership in fire management for local, tribal, state and federal agencies and their constituents to enhance firefighter safety and protection of life, property, and natural resources.

Pam Ensley, Region 1 Fire Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and a member of PNWCG says, “Providing funding to the state and communities is critical in maintaining effective fire protection programs throughout Washington. Whether we fund a \$200,000 neighborhood fuels reduction project or a \$600 purchase of firefighting equipment for a rural fire district, PNWCG is dedicated to communities and our commitment to National Fire Plan goals throughout the region.”



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In 2005, Washington received \$1,164,000 from the State Fire Assistance Program, \$633,000 from the Western State Fire Managers Wildland-Urban Interface grants, \$130,000 from the Rural Fire Assistance Grant Program, \$407,000 from the Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant Program, and over \$1.7 million from the Wildland-Urban Interface Community Assistance Grant Program. Combined these five programs make up the Interagency National Fire Plan Community Assistance Grants Program and have provided Washington with a total of over \$4 million in funding this year.

Grant recipients such as state and local government, tribes and organizations are key players who work collaboratively to energize communities to implement what are mostly complex projects. “Without the creativity of community members working together with tribal, state and federal agency resource specialists, the National Fire Plan goals would never be fully realized,” comments Pam Ensley.

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